

MINUTES

Minutes of the Meeting of the Ad-Hoc Committee on Best Practices in Northampton Decision Making of Jan. 8, 2009. The meeting was called to order at 6 PM in the Board Room of the DPW.

Present were committee members Jim Palermo, Michael Bardsley, Wendy Foxmyn, Alex Ghiselin, David Narkewicz and Bob Reckman. Jesus Leyva and Ken Mitchell were present as members of the public. Ken taped the meeting for future video cast. Lisa DePiano was not present. Decisions made are in bold text below.

Wendy asked what we plan to do between now and March 5 when our report is due. She suggested that we ask the Florence Civic and Business Association if they are interested in hosting an event. Alex suggested that we try to target smaller groups such as City Department heads and the big group of neighborhood groups. Jim asked what our purpose was for such meetings. Jesus suggested that we post our recommendation on the Paradise City Forum. Michael suggested that we could delegate committee members to meet with neighborhood groups. Bob expressed skepticism that we would generate any significant suggestions. Ken suggested that we make more specific recommendations. Wendy said that she thinks we have done a very good job and should feel proud of our product. She is not particularly interested in more outreach and would prefer to meet relatively few times before our final report. David suggested that we reach out electronically to a number of groups such as neighborhood and City list serves. Jesus suggested we ask the Advocate to write an article about our recommendations. Wendy suggested an op-ed piece for the Gazette. There was some discussion about when it would be best timed. There was some support for at least one additional forum. **There was agreement that we would try to widely distribute the one page list of our draft recommendations electronically.** David pointed out that the resolution that created us says the City Council will refer our recommendations to its committees for further action. **We agreed that we would try to get the Gazette and the Advocate to print out entire recommendations as soon as possible.** David will format them and he and Bob will talk to the papers. **Wendy will create an executive summary which can be used for our op-ed** printed around the time we issue our final report and get it to us for review. Bob suggested that we talk to the editorial board of the Gazette and that we consider trying to put price tags on our recommendations. Jim was skeptical about our ability to determine plausible costs. David thinks that the Council might be able to do this as well. Michael suggested that our time would be better spent detailing our recommendations and he will work on specifics. **We agreed that we would try to have another forum at the Florence Civic and Business Association the week of February 9.** Alex will contact the Association and let us know as soon as possible what dates are available. We will tell the public we need their comments by Feb. 13.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, Feb. 18 at 4 PM at the BPW. Bob will reserve the room and post the meeting. If it is not available, he will make other arrangements and let people know.

We talked about the comments from Monday evening. We agreed that all the suggestions on recommendation #1 should be listed simply as comments rather than being incorporated into our bullet points. The comments on #2 were similarly received with the exception that we thought the suggestion that City School could made more flexible and accessible should be incorporated into our bullet points. Recommendation #3 will not have the comments incorporated. We will continue to process the comments from our forum on Jan. 5 at our next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted;

Bob Reckman